

# San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority

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## Comments of E-Waste Hearing

Submitted by Bill Worrell, Manager of the San Luis Obispo County  
Integrated Waste Management Authority

Currently local government has the responsibility and must provide the funding for the management of e-waste. This responsible is the result of AB 939 which requires local government to prepare Household Hazardous Waste Management Plans. In addition AB 939 requires local government to fund the implementation of the plan.

Any future legislation must address these two fundamental issues, funding and responsibility.

The party responsible for managing e-waste must be clearly defined in the legislation. We heard about ““producer responsibility”” at the workshop. However providing funding is not the same as producer responsibility.

Producer responsibility means being responsible for establishing and managing the collection and recycling program for e-waste. A good example would be warranty work on electronics. If your TV has a problem which is covered under a warranty, the producer has a system to collection, repair and return the TV to you.

If the industry is not willing to take on this responsibility than either state government must become responsible or local government will continue to be responsible. An example of state government responsibility would be automobile registration. The state has established offices to provide this service to the public. A similar program could be established for e-waste. Finally if local government is going to continue to be responsible, than local government will establish the appropriate collection and recycling programs.

On the issue of funding, an advanced recycling fee, such as the previously proposed \$10 per unit, would appear to be the most equitable method of funding the management of e-waste. Other funding sources, such as state or local general fund or charging at the end of the useful life, are not equitable and/or problematic. Regardless of the method used to fund the program, it is critical that the funding goes to the party with the responsibility to manage the program. Thus if local government is going to be responsible than the funds should come directly to local government.

Another issue which must be addressed is the lack of markets for the material being generated by existing and future recycling programs. San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority has recently been notified by its vendor who processes our material that the cost to process and recycle our TV and computer monitor glass is going to increase on December 31. The price will go from \$60 per ton to \$160 per ton. This 266 percent increase appears to be nothing more than charging what the market will bear.